

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USPS-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6005

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 6007

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, CS
SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN POSTAL DEBT

REF: STATE 266823

1. SUMMARY. SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWED UP SEVERAL TIMES WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON QUESTION OF POSTAL DEBT. ON DECEMBER 23, EMBOFF MET WITH DANILO RODRIGUEZ WHO WAS APPOINTED IN OCTOBER AS THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS. MR. RODRIGUEZ' POSITION IS A NEW ONE THAT WILL BRING TOGETHER IN ONE DEPARTMENT UNDER ONE COMMON DIRECTION THE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN IN HIS INITIAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS POSTAL DEBT.

2. AT THE DECEMBER 23RD MEETING, MR. RODRIGUEZ DISPLAYED A COMMENDABLE DETERMINATION TO ORGANIZE THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN A MORE SYSTEMATIC WAY THAT WILL ASSURE, HOPEFULLY, REGULAR AND TIMELY ATTENTION TO IMPORTANT ITEMS OF CURRENT BUSINESS SUCH AS THE POSTAL DEBT.

3. MR. RODRIGUEZ STATED THAT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN PREPARING TO PAY THE DEBT IS THE PROBLEM OF GATHERING FULL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION AS TO WHAHJN OWED. HE HAS ASKED FOR

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A COMPLETE REPORT FROM HIS STAFF WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND HAS SET A DEADLINE OF JANUARY 3. AFTER STUDYING THIS INFORMATION, HE EXPECTS TO BE IN A POSITION TO MEET WITH THE EMBASSY AGAIN ON THE POSTAL DEBT DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY.

4. THERE ARE CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS WHICH IT IS HOPED WILL BE CLEARED UP BY THE REPORT SUBMITTED IN EARLY JANUARY. ONE QUESTION CONCERNS MAIL POUCHES HEADED FOR DESTINATIONS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE U.S. AND IN EUROPE WHICH ARE CONSIGNED TO LACSA BY THE COSTA RICAN POST OFFICE. OSOACSA TURNING OVER TO PAN AMERICAN

MANY SUCH MAIL POUCHES THAT ARE GOING BEYOND MIAMI (LACSA'S TERMINAL POINT IN THE U.S.). RODRIGUEZ HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT PAN AMERICAN BILLS THE COSTA RICAN POSTAL SYSTEM DIRECTLY FOR CARRYING THESE POUCHES AND THEN THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ALSO BILLS COSTA RICA FOR THE SAME CARRIAGE. THUS THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM OF DOUBLE BILLING.

5. OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH MR. RODRIGUEZ HOPES TO CLEAR UP CONCERN THE ACCOUNT SUBMITTED BY THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, WHICH WAS DATED JULY 26, 1976 AND WAS SENT TO THE EMBASSY AS AN ENCLOSURE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S A-4093 OF AUGUST 13, 1976. IT APPEARS TO MR. RODRIGUEZ THAT THE ACCOUNT MAY BE INCOMPLETE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT SHOW ANY AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE U.S. TO COSTA RICA UNDER AIR CARGO OR

AIR MAIL AND INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING ACCOUNTS. HE ASSUMES THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO COSTA RICA UNDER THESE CATEGORIES WHICH WOULD OFFSET PART OF THE DEBT OWED TO THE U.S. UNDER THE SAME CATEGORIES. MR. RODRIGUEZ ALSO QUESTIONS THE INDEMNITY CLAIMS. WHILE WE DID NOT GO INTO THIS MATTER IN DETAIL AS THE EMBASSY HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OTHER THAN THAT SHOWN IN THE ACCOUNTS. MR. RODRIGUEZ APPEARS TO HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF COSTA RICA PAYING INDEMNITIES WHICH IT HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE

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TO ADJUDICATE.

6. THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY MR. RODRIGUEZ MAY WELL RELATE AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE TO HIS LACK OF DETAILED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE POSTAL DEBT PROBLEM, AS HE ONLY HAS BEEN ON THE JOB SINCE OCTOBER. HOPEFULLY, WHEN HE HAS A FULL REPORT IN JANUARY FROM HIS STAFF WITH ALL SUPPORTING INFORMATION, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS TO EVERYONE'S SATISFACTION. IN THE MEANTIME, ANY INFORMATION THAT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE MAY HAVE THAT WOULD SHED LIGHT ON THESE PROBLEMS OR HELP THE EMBASSY TO UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION IN MORE DETAIL WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. TODMAN

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